

Requirements for Qualified Nonprofit Conservation Organizations and Lake Associations

In order to receive Lake Planning, Protection, or Classification grants, nonprofit conservation organizations and lake associations must meet specified requirements. The DNR reviews organizations to verify that requirements have been met. If DNR determines the organization to be qualified, the organization will then be considered eligible to apply for the grants. A list of qualified organizations is maintained by the DNR. Organizations that are not designated as qualified by the DNR are not eligible to apply for grants.

Nonprofit Conservation organizations

To be eligible, a nonprofit conservation organization must be:

- ✍ Tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.
- ✍ Show that acquisition of property for conservation purposes is one of the organization's primary purposes.

Nonprofit conservation organizations must submit the following to the DNR Regional Lake Coordinator or Environmental Grant Specialist for review:

- ✍ A copy of their IRS Section 501(c)(3) confirmation letter.
- ✍ Their by-laws and articles of incorporation.

Lake Associations

To be eligible, a lake association must meet the following requirements:

- ✍ Be incorporated under Chapter 181 Wisconsin Statutes.
- ✍ Have been incorporated at least one year.
- ✍ Specify in its articles of incorporation or bylaws that the substantial purpose for being incorporated is to support the protection or improvement of one or more inland lakes for the benefit of the general public.
- ✍ Demonstrate that a substantial purpose of its past actions was to support the protection or improvement of one or more inland lakes for the benefit of the general public.
- ✍ Allow membership to individuals who
 - ✍ Live within one mile of the lake at least one month each year
 - ✍ Own real estate within one mile of the lake.
- ✍ All members must be allowed to vote.
- ✍ Charge annual membership fees as set by the DNR.
- ✍ Have at least 25 members.

Lake associations must submit a Lake Association Organization Application to their Regional Lake Coordinator or Regional Environmental Grants Specialist (Form [8700-226](#)) and a copy of their bylaws and articles of incorporation to the DNR.